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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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July 2, 2018

The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Martin and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Ordinance 17-43 Status Report on Public Spay and Neuter Certificate Program

The Department of Customer Services (CSD), respectfully submits a status report to the members of the City Council on the reduced spay and neuter certificate program.

CSD oversees the animal care and control contract. CSD contracts with the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) for these services and HHS is the contractor responsible for administering the City's Spay and Neuter program on Oahu.

The City's Spay/Neuter program currently consists of two components:

1. "NEUTER NOW PROGRAM". Pass-through funding for PET OWNERS: vets agree to perform spay and neuter services at a reduced rate. CSD is allocated \$500,000 to pay out services of participating vets. Income from certificate sales is returned to the general fund. This is considered "pass-through" funding. Participating clinics are reimbursed for services at the purchased face value of the certificate: **\$50 female cat, \$40 for male cat, \$150 female dog, \$125 male dog.**
2. "FELINE FIX PROGRAM". Subsidized funding for FERAL CATS: this allows colony caregivers to pay \$10 for a certificate and the city subsidizes the balance of the participating vet's charges.

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Both Neuter Now and Feline Fix certificates may be purchased on the city's website, at our Satellite City Halls, or at HHS. For both programs, HHS enters into agreements with voluntary participating clinics.

Ordinance 17-43 allows a reduced sterilization certificate fee of \$20 for Medicaid card and low-income housing voucher holders (in addition to the existing EBT card holders). The purpose of this report is to provide a status report specific to the FELINE FIX pilot program.

Status Report on the FELINE FIX pilot program.

All data and figures provided are as of March 31, 2018 (seven months into the ten month program).

Participation:

Five clinics signed onto the FELINE FIX program in September. One clinic has been suspended, resulting in the current four participating clinics.

Cost Details:

Below is a breakdown of certificate sales.

Certificates sold	1,525
Certificates refunded	31
Net certificate sales	1,494 (as of 3/31/18)
Net income at \$10/per	\$14,940
Payments made to Vets	\$40,570*
Resulting in City subsidizing	\$25,630*
*does not include outstanding invoices	

By program's end on June 30, 2018, based on certificate sales, CSD estimates an additional 606 cats will be serviced, for a program total of 2,100 cats sterilized. The City's projected total subsidy payment would be \$76,510. This subsidized amount is funded through the Neuter Now annual allotment.

Conclusions:

Seven months of this pilot is not sufficient time to gauge the effectiveness of the program on reducing the free-roaming cat population on Oahu. Yet the pilot program is a positive step in engaging local communities to take action in addressing this growing problem.

The fiscal impact on the City after ten months will be approximately \$76,510.

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Financial Impact of Reducing Certificate Price for Medicaid and Low-Income

As of March 31, 2018, 49 Medicaid Card and 7 Low-Incoming Housing Voucher related certificates were purchased at \$20 each. This represents a very small number of participants in these categories. Thus, the minimal effect to expand the program, would not significantly impact the City's subsidy of the Neuter Now program.

Evaluation of Whether Feline Fix Funding Should be Drawn From Neuter Now

If the Feline Fix (feral cat) program were to continue, CSD's recommendation is that separate funding be created so that it is not comingled with the Neuter Now (owned pet) program.

- As a "pass-through" program, Neuter Now funding cycles back to the city, making it sustainable for years.
- As a subsidized program, FELINE FIX, requires consumable funding which can be adjusted as necessary each fiscal year.

In offering reduced rate certificates, adding Medicaid Card and low-income housing voucher qualifiers, in addition to the existing EBT allowance has had a nominal effect on the Neuter Now allotment. Thus, CSD believes we should continue to offer reduced rate as an incentive for this group to address the spaying and neutering of their pets.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 768-3391.

Sincerely,



Randy M. Leong
Deputy Director

APPROVED:



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